(iii) The National Judicial Council should be entrusted with the task of recommending appointments of Supreme Court and High Court Judges. It should also be entrusted the task of oversight of the judges, and should be empowered to enquire into alleged misconduct and impose minor penalties. It can also recommend removal of a judge if so warranted.

(iv) Based on the recommendations of the NJC, the President should have the powers to remove a Supreme Court or High Court Judge.

(v) Article 124 and 217 of the Constitution may be amended to provide for the National Judicial Council.

(vi) A Judge of the Supreme Court should be designated as the Judicial Values Commissioner. He/she should be assigned the task of enforcing the code of conduct. Similar arrangement should also be made in the High Court.

(c) to (e) An empowered Committee has been constituted to examine these recommendations and give its report.

Women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies

1405. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07;

(b) whether any law is going to be enacted to enhance the degree of representation in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies; and

(c) if so, by when and upto what extent?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The percentage of women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies in the years 2005-07 is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The Government is making all-out efforts to arrive at a consensus on the provisions of the Women Reservation Bill before the said Bill is introduced in the Parliament. It is not possible to indicate any time-frame in this regard.

Statement

Percentage of Women representation in Elections in 2005-07

I. Women representation in Lok Sabha—General Election 2004.

		Total Members	Women Members Elected	Percentage
		543	45	8.29

II. Women representation in Legislative Assemblies at the Elections held in 2005-07

2005-	Bihar	243	25	10.29
	Haryana	90	11	12.22
	Jharkhand	81	3	3.70
2006-	Assam	126	13	10.32
	Kerala	140	7	5.00
	Tamil Nadu	234	22	9.41
	West Bengal	294	37	12.59
	Puducherry	30	0	0
*2007-	Manipur	60	0	0
	Punjab	117	7	5.98
	Uttarakhand	70	4	5.71

*Provisional Report under finalisation.

Reservation for women

1406. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proceeding to frame laws for providing reservation to women in Parliament, Legislative assemblies etc.;

(b) whether Government are aware that lack of empowerment of women has resulted in serious social and economic imbalance; and